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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 25 March 1953

SUBJECT Arrest of Minister Karl Hamann

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. On 4 December 1952, at a meeting of the Ministerial Council at which the East German supply situation was discussed, Minister Karl Hamann stated that he would make no false statements on this subject; that neither he nor Fritz Hantke had caused this situation; and that he was prepared to help overcome the present crisis if it could be done in an objective way. On 5 December 1952, Hamann received a letter from Grotewohl, by courier, stating that he was removed from office. On 9 December 1952, at a conference between Hamann, Walter Ulbricht, and Otto Grotewohl, Hamann reiterated that he was not guilty, that the people would have to be informed of the facts; and that he was not prepared to give false testimony publicly criticizing himself. Since this conference he has been allowed to move only with one SSD car in front of his car and two SSD cars following. On 10 December 1952, he went to Herbert Taeschner, Secretary General of the Liberal-Demokratische Partei (LDP), for a conference. Together with Taeschner he left Taeschner's apartment and has not since returned.

2. Hamann's daughter Liv was also arrested on 10 December and has not reappeared. She is twenty-four years old, was a student at the university in East Berlin, and had numerous private and political connections in the West. [REDACTED]

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3. On 10 December 1952, after Hamann had gone to Taeschner, Mrs. Hamann went to see the wife of her physician. From there, she repeatedly telephoned her home. The calls were answered by a man who said that this was the wrong number. When she finally called a pastor who lived across from her she learned that four men had entered her house. She also learned, by phone, from Mrs. Taeschner that her husband and Taeschner had left together. Subsequently, she was allowed to live in the upper rooms of her house while two SSD officials stayed in the lower rooms to watch the telephone and all persons entering the house.

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